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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) SR/2

FROM: RI/AN

NO. COPY CSCI 3/762,805

DATE ~~23 Nov 60~~ 17 Jan 60

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. RI/FI				
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
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DATE 2008

file in]
~~23 Nov 60~~
17 Jan 61

FORM 1 DEC 56 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET [redacted] CONTROL

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: Velta RUPPERS, et al

1. This memorandum contains information available in the files of this office concerning persons, born in Latvia, who now reside in the United States and are probably naturalized citizens. These individuals are known to have some degree of ties, i.e., blood, marriage, close personal friendships, with residents of the Latvian SSR who, in turn, have been in contact with CIA, are known to have been exposed to, and are considered to be controlled by the MVD. While this office is not aware of any measures having been initiated to utilize these Soviet citizens for counter intelligence operations targeted against the United States, it is felt that such action could conceivably have been employed by the MVD.

2. Velta RUPPERS: Velta RUPPERS was the subject of an unnumbered Bureau Memorandum, dated 1 June 1960, to our Office of Security. This report stated that a confidential informant of your office had reported that Velta RUPPERS was contacted by telephone in May 1957 by a Mr. RUPPERS from Riga, Latvia, who requested Velta RUPPERS to send her son, Inte, to Moscow and assured her that Inte would be returned unharmed. This she refused to do. Through a confidential source of this office, it has been learned that Velta RUPPERS received a letter in August or September 1960 from an I. RUPPERS in Latvia. It is believed that the Mr. RUPPERS mentioned in your Memorandum to our Office of Security and the I. RUPPERS who was the sender of the letter in August or September 1960 are identical with Ilmars RUPPERS, a former agent for CIA in Riga, Latvia, who is considered to be controlled by the MVD.

a. Velta RUPPERS nee: ZARINS, was born 6 October 1914 in Riga, Latvia. In 1937 she married Ilmars RUPPERS. Their son, Ints (or Inta), was born 6 May 1941. On 20 December 1950 Velta RUPPERS and her son, Ints, entered the United States as Displaced Persons from Latvia. Velta RUPPERS became a naturalized citizen of the United States on 16 April 1957 in Brooklyn,

SECRET [redacted] CONTROL

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New York. She was issued Certificate #7942896. The most current information available in the files of this office reveals that Velta RUPNEEKS is employed as a teller at the Yorkville Savings and Loan Association, 1640 Second Avenue, New York 28, New York. She and her son Ints were last known to reside at 193-08 39th Avenue, Flushing, New York. The parents of Velta RUPNEEKS, Peteris and Pauline KARINS, also were residing at this address. It is believed that they are naturalized citizens of the United States.

b. In providing biographic information to a contract agent of this office Velta RUPNEEKS gave as a character reference the name of Gresta BERZINSS, 7501 Ridge Blvd., Brooklyn 9, New York. It is believed that this Gresta BERZINSS is identical with the Gresta BERZINSS who is the Subject of Bureau Memorandum, dated 5 May 1960, Bureau File Number 123-7908; CSCI 3/759,173, dated 16 April 1960; and CSCI 3/761,797, dated 7 October 1960.

c. Ilmars RUPNEEKS, the husband of Velta RUPNEEKS, was born 11 May 1914. He lives in Riga, Latvia. In August 1954 Ilmars RUPNEEKS was contacted and recruited for CIA by Leonids Arturs BRONEERGS, an agent of CIA who had been dispatched into the Latvian SSR in May 1954. BRONEERGS reported to this office that he had provided Ilmars RUPNEEKS with secret writing materials for RUPNEEKS' use in writing letters from Latvia. The meeting between RUPNEEKS and BRONEERGS was subsequently confirmed by RUPNEEKS who maintained contact with this office, sporadically, until November 1957. At that time, RUPNEEKS requested that the contact be discontinued until such time as he could provide a new address since he planned to move his place of residence. To date there has been no further communications from him.

d. In September 1957 the Soviets announced, via radio and press, the capture and arrest of American Intelligence agents, one of whom was Leonids Arturs BRONEERGS. It is interesting to note that the

telephone call that Velta [redacted] received from a Mr. [redacted] in Riga, Latvia, was made in May 1957 while the capture of [redacted] was announced by the Soviets in September 1957.

3. Janis and Lucija [redacted]: Janis and Lucija [redacted] are the parents of Ilmars [redacted]. Their last known address was 2902 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn, New York, which is where they lived in 1957 when they appeared as witnesses for their daughter-in-law, Velta [redacted], at the time she was granted United States citizenship.

4. Albins [redacted]: Albins [redacted] was born 12 September 1906 in Ainazi, Latvia. His last known address was 1309½ S. Henry Street, Bay City Michigan. It is known that in 1955 he was in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was seeking employment. It is not known whether or not he was successful in this effort. Albins [redacted] is probably now a naturalized citizen of the United States. In 1946, he lived in the French Zone of Germany and arrived in the United States as a D.P. in 1951. In May 1953 [redacted] was interviewed by a Staff employee of this office who did not use his true name with [redacted]. The interview, however, was arranged by a Staff employee of another office of CIA who did use his true name and CIA credentials. Consequently, [redacted] was aware of CIA interest. The interview was inspired by the fact that this office had learned that Albins [redacted] carried on a communications channel with citizens of the Latvian SSR. This office was interested in obtaining information on this channel from [redacted].

a. According to the information provided by Albins [redacted] during the initial interview, his correspondence channel to Latvia dated back to 1946 when he was living in the French Zone of Germany. The correspondence was initiated by an Arturs [redacted], Riga, Latvia, in response to [redacted]' efforts to attempt to find out the whereabouts of his and his wife's relatives in Latvia. In the beginning of 1949 this correspondence channel from Latvia was taken over by a person who [redacted] identified to be Janis [redacted]. [redacted] characterized Janis [redacted] as being skilled in clandestine activities. According to [redacted], both Arturs [redacted] and Janis [redacted] were conscripted into the Latvian Legion which was later integrated into the German Army. Upon the collapse of the German forces in Latvia, many of the Latvian Legion were taken prisoners of war by the Russians.

SIEVERSONS stated that he believed that is what happened to KRASTINS and LIKIS. SIEVERSONS was of the opinion that KRASTINS and LIKIS were acquainted with one another, had served in the same unit, and LIKIS had persuaded KRASTINS to permit LIKIS to take over the channel of communications for clandestine exploitation rather than to continue its use by KRASTINS as a means of mere service for personal information. Upon the entrance of Janis LIKIS into this correspondence channel, it became evident to SIEVERSONS that Janis LIKIS was still carrying on his clandestine activities. SIEVERSONS stated during the interview that he realized that he was in no position to assist LIKIS and his companions in Latvia, did not wish to raise the hopes of his unfortunate countrymen, and was, therefore non-committal in his responses. When SIEVERSONS began to arrange for his immigration to the United States, he arranged with a neighbor of his in Germany to receive his mail from Latvia and forward it to him in the United States. SIEVERSONS explained to the neighbor that he did not wish to lose contact with his friends in Latvia. The neighbor whom he solicited to receive the mail was: Frau Olga DOBER, Altebergstrasse 78, Buetlingen, Germany.

b. Continuing further with his discussion of the correspondence channel, SIEVERSONS stated that in November 1951 he received a letter from Ilmars RUPEINS, Riga, Latvia. In this letter Ilmars RUPEINS advised SIEVERSONS that Janis LIKIS had died as the result of a fall in which he hit his head on the pavement. RUPEINS further advised SIEVERSONS that the correspondence that SIEVERSONS had received from Janis LIKIS was actually prepared jointly by LIKIS and RUPEINS. RUPEINS indicated his desire to continue this correspondence. According to SIEVERSONS, Ilmars RUPEINS had also served in the Latvian Legion and probably in the same unit with Arturs KRASTINS and Janis LIKIS. SIEVERSONS was personally acquainted with all three of these individuals. The correspondence between Ilmars RUPEINS in Latvia and Albins SIEVERSONS was still going on in 1954.

c. In December 1958, and subsequent to the report made to this office by Leonids Arturs [redacted] that he had recruited Ilmars [redacted], Albins [redacted] was again interviewed by the Staff employee of this office who had interviewed him in 1953. The purpose of this interview was to obtain the permission of [redacted] to divert the mail channel with Ilmars [redacted] so that it could be utilized to receive clandestine communications from [redacted]. [redacted] agreed to this arrangement. He also wrote to his out-out in Germany, Frau [redacted], to provide her with an address to which she should forward his mail from Latvia other than the one she had been using which was his home address.

d. During the first interview with [redacted] he revealed that there were others, in addition to Ilmars [redacted], engaged in clandestine activities in Latvia, apparently in collaboration with [redacted]. One of these persons was referred to by [redacted] as J. [redacted] and Jans [redacted]. [redacted]' was of the opinion that this J. [redacted], also known as Jans [redacted], was identical with Janis [redacted] who had also been conscripted into the Latvian legion during World War II. [redacted] added further that Janis [redacted] had attempted to escape from Latvia to Sweden by boat on 8 May 1945 along with some other Latvians and that all of the group had been captured by the Soviets and returned to Latvia.

5. Guida Mariana Priedite [redacted]: Guida Mariana Priedite [redacted] was born in Riga, Latvia. She is now a naturalized citizen of the United States. [redacted] is the subject of Bureau Memorandum, dated 22 January 1960, Bureau File Number 105-81565; Bureau Memorandum, dated 16 May 1960, Bureau File Number 105-81565; CSCI 3/753,367, dated 21 January 1960; and CSCI 3/760,059, dated 25 May 1960. In 1959 Guida Mariana Priedite [redacted] was a Guide at the American Exhibit in Moscow. During the time she was in the Soviet Union she visited Riga, Latvia, along with John Reed [redacted]. While in Riga [redacted] contacted Janis [redacted] who, according to [redacted], arranged for her and [redacted] to see the city. [redacted] stated that [redacted] used two cars in order to avoid the surveillance placed on them during this tour. [redacted] said that she contacted Janis [redacted] at the request of Karlis [redacted], the editor of Laika, a Latvian-language newspaper published in New York City. [redacted] identified Janis [redacted] as the brother-in-law of Karlis [redacted]. It is the opinion of this office that the J. [redacted] and Jans [redacted], to whom Ilmars [redacted] referred and whom Albins [redacted] identified as Janis [redacted], is probably identical with Janis [redacted], the brother-in-law of Karlis [redacted].

6. Ernests SVEICS: Ernests SVEICS was born in Riga, Latvia. His last known residence was 960 E. 15th Street, Apartment 6, Brooklyn, New York. It is presumed that he arrived in the United States after World War II. He is possibly now a naturalized citizen. In March 1957 Ernests SVEICS was interviewed by a contract agent of this office in order to obtain information concerning a letter that Ernests SVEICS had received from his nephew, Vidvuds SVEICS, who lives in Riga, Latvia.

a. Vidvuds SVEICS has been an agent in Latvia for CIA and is considered to be controlled by the MVD. Ernests SVEICS stated to the interviewer that he had received a letter from his nephew, that the letter contained mostly news about relatives in Latvia. It also provided a street address in Riga which Ernests SVEICS should use when writing to his nephew. However, the letter was to be addressed to the name of S. JANSONS rather than to the nephew in his true name, i.e., Vidvuds SVEICS. Ernests SVEICS stated that he had replied to his nephew's letter according to the instructions and had used his true name and address in Brooklyn, New York, as the sender of the letter.

b. Vidvuds SVEICS was in contact with CIA, via secret writing letters and radio from January 1957 until the summer of 1958. It is known that he was also in contact with the British Intelligence Service from the summer of 1949 until late 1955 or early 1956 and with the Swedish Intelligence Service from early in 1949 until the summer of 1957.

c. It is also known that Vidvuds SVEICS was aware of Albins SKETTERSENS' communications channel to Latvia. The presence of Vidvuds SVEICS in Latvia and his resistance activities were known to Leonids Arturs RENGERENS, the CIA agent who reported to this office that he had recruited Ilmars REPPENS and whose capture by the MVD was announced in September 1957.

d. Vidvuds SVEICS was one of the members of a Latvian resistance organization with whom the former British agent, Vitolds REKEVICS, was in contact during the time REKEVICS was in Latvia (1949-1951). According to information supplied to CIA by the British Intelligence Service, the British proved that the resistance organization to which Vidvuds SVEICS belonged was, throughout the operation, under the control of the Soviet State Security (currently, the MVD). Vitolds

[redacted] agent approximately 18 months living with this resistance organization in Latvia and was then exfiltrated to England, via Germany. The British Intelligence Service has stated that they believe that the Soviets permitted Vitolds [redacted] to return to England with the sole object of persuading the British to continue to send in their agents. The British are also of the opinion that [redacted] was not aware of being controlled by the Soviets during the time he was in Latvia as their agent.

7. Vitolds [redacted] is the Subject of Bureau Memorandum, dated 10 November 1958, Bureau File Number 97-3553, and CSCI 3/756,529, dated 24 September 1958. He now lives in the United States. In November 1958 he was interviewed by a Staff employee of this office. [redacted] was shown a group picture of Latvians, one of whom was Vidvuds SVEICS. [redacted] identified SVEICS by true name and stated that SVEICS was one of the persons in Latvia who gave him operational instructions for the resistance organization during the time [redacted] was there as an intelligence agent for the British. [redacted] further stated that Vidvuds SVEICS was also known as KIRSTEINS and as JANSONS. In an earlier interview with an employee of our office of Security, [redacted] stated that on 28 May 1958 his mother in High Point, North Carolina, had received a telephone call from a person who, as closely as his mother was able to remember, identified himself as Mr. JANSONS. The caller made inquiries about Vitolds [redacted] and his whereabouts, claimed that he owned an airplane firm and wanted to offer Vitolds [redacted] a job as a pilot. [redacted] stated to the interviewer that he knew only one person who was named JANSONS, that this person was engaged in clandestine work in Latvia and that he could not visualize that person having made the call.

8. It will be appreciated if you provide this office with any information that you may have available concerning the persons named herein and with any comments you may consider expedient.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS):

[redacted]

CSCI-3/762,808

SR/2/Baltic/Lat[redacted]llg 5 January 1960

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References:
- Ximara [redacted] this copy
- Albina [redacted]
- Velta [redacted] orig. filed in
- Vitolds [redacted]
- ABCOR/7
- Guido [redacted]

copies filed in each

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